

Response to Office Action of 8/27/04  
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**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present application includes pending claims 1, 4-13, 31-34 and 62-72. Claims 1, 4-13, 31-34 and 62-67 all stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 62, and 64 have been amended, while new claims 68-87 have been added. Claim 65 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. No fee is believed due with respect to new claims 68-87 because it is believed that the fee previously paid for the cancelled and withdrawn claims covers these new claims. Claims 1, 4-13, 31-34, and 62 stand rejected. Reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

An interview was conducted with the Examiner on October 13, 2004. Agreement was reached with respect to claims 1, 4-13, 31-34, and 62-67. See, e.g., Interview Summary submitted by Examiner. The Interview Summary recites the following:

With respect to claims 1 and 62, applicant/examiner suggested amending claims to include "programmed to" to overcome cited prior art. "Programmed to" includes a program to perform the recited function. With respect to claims 33, 34, 66, and 67, cited prior art is overcome by the independent claims. In light of discussion applicant suggested further amendment but will consider for a later date. With respect to claim 64, applicant suggested an amendment in which claim 65 is written as an independent and the phrase "non-detonating" removed. Since there is no prior art applied to these claims the cited matter is in condition for allowance.

See *id.* at page 3. The Applicants have amended the claims accordingly.

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New claims 68-87 have been added to further define the scope of patent protection sought by applicants. No new matter has been added by these claims, which find support in the specification, including at the following passages:

"The field of this invention relates to a networked system of pyrotechnic devices. Pyrotechnic devices play an increasingly important role in aerospace vehicles and systems such as rockets, aircraft and spacecraft." (Page 1, lines 4-6).

"Pyrotechnic systems used in aerospace system also typically require a separate ordnance system battery 112 and power circuit, independent from the vehicle avionics batteries 110." (Page 2, lines 18-19).

"Because the cable network 204 distributes power and signals at low voltage and low current, flexible thin cables may be used, facilitating the integration of the networked electronic ordnance system 200 into an aircraft, missile or other device." (Page 5, lines 19-22).

"The bus controller 206 preferably is electrically connected to an avionics battery 110, from which power is drawn." (Page 7, lines 1-2).

"Typically, an avionics battery (not shown) is provided for powering the avionics within an aerospace vehicle, and a networked electronic ordnance system 200 used in such an aerospace vehicle preferably draws power from that avionics battery." (Page 12, lines 18-21).

"For example, where the pyrotechnic devices 202 are located within a crewed vehicle, such as a (sic) aircraft or space craft, the use of human input to initiate arming may be desirable to ensure that the system is not inadvertently armed by automatic means." (Page 16, lines 4-7).

Finally, on November 23, 2004, the Examiner sent the undersigned a facsimile communication, which included the front page of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,907 to Boucher et al. (the "Boucher patent"). The Examiner's November 23<sup>rd</sup> communication stated: "In view of our interview the Examiner finds the following p/a relevant to your pending claims. Please consider this reference when amending and/or arguing." Applicants originally submitted the Boucher patent to the Patent Office in an Information Disclosure

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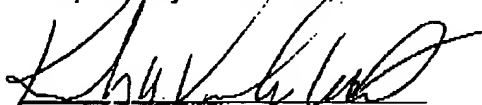
Statement dated November 3, 2003. The Applicants have considered this reference and would be happy to address any specific concerns raised by the Examiner in a supplemental Office Action, so as to be fully responsive to any such concerns about the reference.

The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.15(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below and believe that no additional fees are required:

	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Extra Present	Rate	Total
Total Claims	40	55	0	\$50	\$0
Indep. Claims	6	15	0	\$200	\$0

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee to cover the Petition for Extension of Time in the amount of \$1,020 to our Deposit Account No. 13-0017. While no fee is believed due with respect to the new claims, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



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